



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

pear more clearly, however, if the data are more heavily grouped and shown in terms of per cent. The result is the following table:

Age	Western	Eastern
0-14	220	1,023
15-29	710	1,517
30-44	404	241
45-	79	31

Or in terms of per cent:

Age	Western	Eastern
0-14	16%	36%
15-29	50%	54%
30-44	28%	9%
45-	6%	1%

The striking feature is the small proportion of children in the western institution. Superficially this is somewhat surprising. Other things being equal, the older an institution the more likely it is to have a large number of custodial cases. We might, therefore, expect just the reverse of the situation indicated above. One factor in the matter is simple and obvious enough. The western state has a law providing for the commitment of adult women who are a social menace, for the child-bearing period; as a result its "school" for the feeble-minded is burdened with such purely custodial cases. This may be the large factor; but the writers cannot believe that the more general appreciation of the problem of mental defect in the east, with the result that cases are recognized earlier and their need for care in an institution better understood, is a fundamental influence. Anyhow the outstanding fact is this: that early care for the feeble-minded is lacking in the western state; its one institution had at the time of the census (1918) only 25 cases below 10 years of age out of a total population of 1,400. As was said at the beginning, the writers had also the impression that there was a difference in the type of cases in the institutions of the two states, that the western state was lacking in provision for both the younger and the higher grade cases.

This is, perhaps, a large amount of generalization from data woefully inadequate for the understanding of such a complex problem. The writers are presenting these few bits of fact with the hope that they may stimulate further study. As has already been suggested, a series of systematic institutional surveys, by means of mental tests and otherwise, should yield data of great interest in studying such matters. It should also be mentioned that the extension of such surveys to cover penitentiaries and reform schools, and also orphan asylums and other similar institutions would seem well worth while. It would be decidedly interesting to know whether in proportion as a state fails to make provision for its high grade feeble-minded cases in an institution for them, it may not be forced to care for these cases in correctional schools or as public charges.—Professor S. L. Pressey, University of Indiana.

A Study in Criminal Psychology.—While the writer was serving as clinical psychologist in the United States Army he was ordered to examine the mentality and ascertain the degree of mental responsibility of fifteen negro soldiers who had been in prison or guardhouse for some months with a charge of rape against them. The following rather interesting data was obtained:

The lowest chronological age was 22, the highest 30, with a median of 24. The distribution of states from which they came into the army was: Oklahoma, 4; North Carolina, 4, Kentucky, 2; Texas, 2; Mississippi, 1; Georgia, 1; District of Columbia, 1. They reported the following school attendance:

No schooling	4
One year schooling.....	2
Two years schooling.....	1
Three years schooling.....	1
Four years schooling.....	3
Five years schooling.....	2
Seven years schooling.....	1
Eight years schooling.....	1

The median is 3 years of school attendance. Of these fifteen men, 4 were common laborers, 10 farmers, and 1 an actor. The weekly wages as given by the men were, before they entered the army, for nine of them from \$4.00 to \$55.00 per week. The one getting \$55.00 was an actor. The average for the nine was \$28.75. Six stated that they merely received the crop and could not estimate their income. Six reported that they were unmarried, eight that they were married and one was not sure whether he was or not. Ten reported that they had no children, four that they one child and one that he had two children. The following venereal report was given:

Non-venereal	7
Gonorrhea	6
Syphilis	1
Syphilis and Gonorrhea.....	1

The Stanford-Binet test was given to get the mental age. This ranged from 8 years 6 months to 12 years 8 months, with a median of 10 years 2 months. Of the fifteen, twelve had a mental age of less than 12 years.

Of these men twelve rated as morons and the other three were borderline cases. It would be interesting to know if a large majority of the men court-martialed in the army were not feeble-minded or borderline cases. All of the above would rate as such. At the same time they were considered mentally responsible for their acts. It would also be of interest to find out the relation between schooling and the accusation of crime. It was evident from the examination of these men that each had lived in an environment which corresponded to his natural mental endowments.—C. E. Benson, Professor of Psychology, State Teacher's College, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

COURTS—LAWS

Probation System in U. S. Courts.—The following bill for the establishment of a probation system in the United States courts, except in the District of Columbia (H. R. 12036) was introduced in the House of Representatives, Sixty-sixth Congress, Second Session, on January 24, 1920, by Mr. Augustine Lonergan, H. R., First District Conn.:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the judge or judges of any United States court having original jurisdiction of criminal actions, except in the District of Columbia, may appoint one or more persons to serve as probation officers within the jurisdiction and under the direction of the judge or